The National
Future Farmer

Published by the Future Farmers of America

April-May, 1983

Inside This Issue: The Many Faces Of Kenny Davis
Leadership: It's Not Just For Superheroes

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Future Farmer
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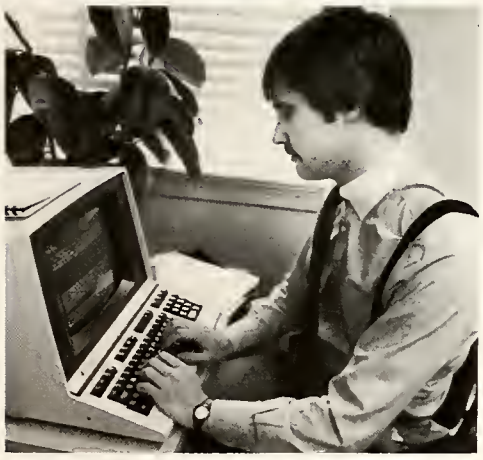
A Word With The Editor



Managing Editor Mike Wilson writing on a computer terminal for this issue.

Another step into the computer age is being taken with this issue of the FFA magazine. The type you are reading was set by computer. Several steps were eliminated in the production process which should reduce errors and shorten the time to get the issue to press.

Here is how the system works. Our editors can now use computer terminals instead of typewriters for writing their stories. After corrections are made right on the terminals, a magnetic tape is produced using the computer here at the National FFA Center and the tape is then sent to the typesetter instead of a typed manuscript. The tape is put through a machine that sets the type using the typing strokes captured on the tape. The magazine then goes to pasteup according to the layouts prepared by the staff.

While the computer is new to the editorial department, it is not new for the magazine. The circulation department has been using the computers of a service bureau for maintaining the subscriber list since 1967. This is another effort by the staff to use the latest technology to bring you a quality magazine for the lowest possible cost.

Wilson Carnes

In This Issue

Selling Yourself: Making Job Talents Work For You 12
Whether it's a career or a summer job, some tips on getting employed.

The Many Faces of Kenny Davis 14
This FFA member finds challenges—and success—on both sides of the FFA coin.

Careers in Agriculture: Ag Mechanics 16
Like tinkering? Don't mind engine work? This field may be for you.

FFA's Star Farmers: What It Takes To Be The Best 20
Four Star Farmers give insights behind their new careers in farming.

In Ohio JVS Spells Opportunity 22
For FFA'ers like Brad and Mike, these schools provide skills faster.

100 Degrees For Mr. Boyd 25
This veteran ag teacher achieved what many thought impossible.

Leadership: It's Not Just for Superheroes 26
So you say you need super powers to be a leader in your chapter? Read on.

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Each year FFA members get leadership training in the nation's capital.

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Our Cover

Cover Photo by Michael Wilson

Like a giant monster clawing its way through the earth, FFA'er Richard Williams guides his bulldozer to another successful land-construction job in the sandy but oil-rich fields of west Texas. His story begins on page 34.

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The Mailbag

Abbeville, South Carolina

I just finished reading your February-March issue and I commend you on your article by Michael Wilson entitled "Many Hats To Choose From." I am a sophomore FFA member at Dixie High School in South Carolina and I am seriously thinking about a career in agriculture. However, after reading Mr. Wilson's article I wasn't ready to take on any one job, but now I at least have some good ideas to think about until I decide what I would like to do. Thanks for a great article.

Paul Cann

Robbinsville, New Jersey

I would like to commend you and the entire staff of *The National FUTURE FARMER* on an excellent issue for February-March, 1983. The article "Your Career In Agriculture—Many Hats To Choose From" was a superior job and the chart that went along with the article added just the right touch.

Currently I serve as the agricultural representative on the Governor's Advisory Council on Vocational Education in New Jersey. Unfortunately the other representatives on the council are not totally aware of the many career opportunities in agriculture. This is something I've been trying to do now for the past five years that I've been on the council. This article is just the ticket that I need to do this. Again, congratulations on a great issue.

William H. Snyder

Miami, Florida

I'm writing about your article in the December-January issue about the SOE placement program Bob Seefeldt talked about. I don't live on a farm but hope to go into a career in raising livestock. The problem with me is I lack the hands on experience. It would really be a big help if you could send me more information on the ag placement program. I liked your article a lot—it was just what I needed.

David Ventriere

We sent David the information he requested.—Ed.

Kingwood, Texas

I have been an FFA advisor for six years and have thoroughly enjoyed reading *The National FUTURE FARMER*. I am currently in public school administration and now find your magazine more interesting because it keeps me informed about the FFA. So many times articles are based on family involvement and tradition like the Tesnolidek family in the June-July issue. Articles of this nature are really inspiring and really helped motivate me as a teacher.

Larry G. Bennett
Vocational Supervisor

Toledo, Ohio

I was very disappointed in your August-September issue. You put in information about horse scholarships and in all but one of the items you had to be a member of that horse club or be a very good rider. What about horse lovers who would love to get a scholarship and do not live near a stable, do not own a horse, or do not have the money to pay for the lessons? Why not try to put in some information for us?

Sue Neill

Vicksburg, Michigan

I hesitated a great deal about writing this letter, but I couldn't prolong my curiosity. I am writing to you in reference to the article concerning Leroy Billman, Ohio state president.

I don't know about other FFA and agriculture classes, but in my class we are taught farm safety! If Leroy Billman is the state president of Ohio's FFA, shouldn't he at least have known enough to shut off the baler before trying to unjam it? My entire ag class agrees with me on this note. We were also concerned with the fact that when writing this article, the author neglected to say anything about farm and tractor safety!

Lisa Lewman

The point of the story was to portray one FFA member's courage in the face of personal tragedy. We did not intend to condone improper safety practices. The need for farm safety is obvious.—Ed.

Caldwell, Ohio

Future farmers have to start somewhere and the FFA is the best place I know of to start. As a first-year member I have learned how to get a good start in farming and have learned the qualities of leadership and responsibilities. In future years I hope to learn more in ag production and management and through *The National FUTURE FARMER* magazine I can feel sure that I can learn what I need to know about farming.

Pat Cain

Washington, D.C.

I wish it were possible to personally thank each FFA member and vo-ag instructor for their help in promoting the 1982 Census of Agriculture. The census response rate is very good at this time, which is due in a large part to the efforts of Future Farmers. They distributed posters, learned to properly complete census reports, and in many cases actually completed the report forms. We are very grateful for their help.

I also appreciate your help in publicizing the census in *The National FUTURE FARMER*. Without your help we would not have been able to deliver our message to the FFA members. I am very proud to be associated with the FFA and look forward to continuing our good working relationship.

John H. Berry
Chief, Agriculture Division
Bureau of the Census

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The FFA News in Brief

WASHINGTON CONFERENCE Program scholarships might still be available in your state for the 1983 summer leadership program in Washington, D.C. This year National FFA Foundation sponsors are providing 90 scholarships to be used by FFA members to attend the conference. Each provides $294 to pay the $275 conference fee, plus $19 applied toward plaques, photos and news stories about your attendance at the conference. Although individual contacts and scholarship sponsor names are too great to list here, ask your FFA advisor about them — chances are he can call your state FFA office to find out if the scholarships are still available.

SPEAKING OF SCHOLARSHIPS: If you're itching to go overseas on the FFA's Work Experience Abroad (WEA) program, there may still be a scholarship available to you for this year. Again, scholarships are provided by sponsors through the National FFA Foundation. Most provide between $1,000 and $2,000 to FFA members. Our most recent WEA scholarship-provider is the Mobay Chemical Corporation, who is providing both Kansas and Missouri with two $2,000 WEA scholarships. Again, have your FFA Advisor check with your state FFA office.

THE NATIONAL FFA Board of Directors met in January at the National FFA Center in Alexandria, Virginia to discuss important items of business concerning vocational agriculture. Here are some highlights:

- The Board approved funding from the National FFA Foundation for a public service announcement (PSA) campaign. This means FFA members may soon be seeing announcements on television, radio, magazines and newspapers which support vocational agriculture and the Future Farmers of America.
- The Board also approved the following policy concerning the official FFA jacket. In essence, the policy states jackets will be sold only for use by active constitutional FFA members, and the presentation of the jacket to any non-member is strictly prohibited. The only exception is a replacement jacket for past members and jackets worn by incoming WEA participants.

National FFA Treasurer David Miller discusses FFA budget at Board meeting.

LONG-TIME FFA employee Adriana L. (Jannie) Stagg retired January 28, 1983 from her position as Circulation Fulfillment Manager in *The National FUTURE FARMER's* circulation department. Ms. Stagg started working for the national FFA organization in 1963 as a temporary clerk in the circulation department. When the magazine put its circulation records on computer in 1967, Ms. Stagg attended an IBM short-course to become a computer keypunch operator. She was named supervisor to the circulation department in 1974 and in 1977 earned the title of Circulation Fulfillment Manager. Dottie Hinkle, former secretary to FFA's Supply Service Director, replaces Ms. Stagg as Circulation Fulfillment Manager.

Jannie Stagg

LEVI STRAUSS & Company announced recently that it will sponsor FFA's "Stars Over America" audio-visual program as a special project through the National FFA Foundation. The company has pledged over $23,000 which will go towards covering the cost of the show, produced by the National FFA Center. Each year,the Stars Over America program recognizes FFA's eight top American Farmer Degree recipients as Star Farmers and Star Agribusinessmen of America.

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Trends in Agriculture

Looking Ahead

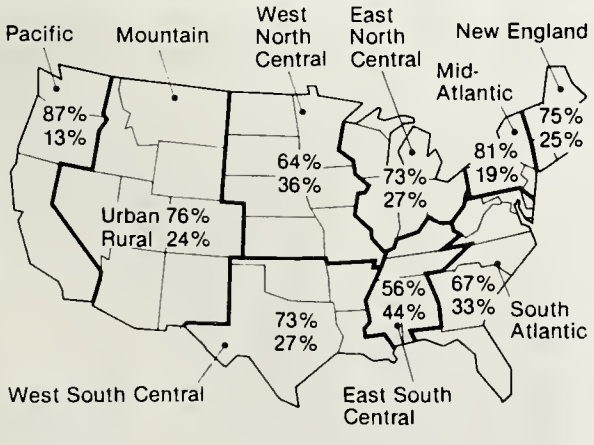
WHAT NEXT? THE "POMATO," of course. That's no typographical error—it's the new name for a genetic cross between tomato and potato plants, the results of plant research going on at Kansas State University in Manhattan, Kansas. So far, plant scientists haven't determined whether the "pomato" hybrid will be able to sexually reproduce. The plant produces tubers underground and a small, yellow seedless fruit that smells like a tomato. Scientists are hoping a vastly improved version of the hybrid will develop a natural resistance, which "regular" tomatoes already have, to the late blight disease—the same disease which caused the great Irish potato famine in the last century. Currently, late blight can be only partially controlled by fungicide spraying.

IF YOU NEED quick and precise information about prices for new and used farm equipment, the *Hot Line Farm Equipment Guide* may be just what you need. The guide is published each month with specific auction prices supplied by auctioneers and retailers. Most listings are for used equipment. A recent issue listed over 1,000 implements, including the manufacturer's name, model number, year, condition, state where sold, comments and specific price. The list is mostly made up of tractors and harvesting equipment, but planters and several other items are listed as well. Find out more by writing to: Hot Line, Inc., 2742 1st Avenue South, Fort Dodge, Iowa 50501.

APRIL means it's time for fieldwork, and consequently you may be transporting heavy farm equipment. Take a minute or two to scan the following list of safety reminders for the tillage season:

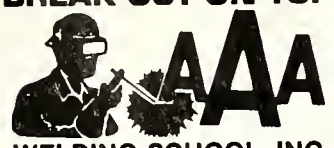
- Always be aware of both width and height of equipment when transporting. Make sure all equipment is lowered and locked into transport position. Remember, taller equipment is more unstable than shorter equipment
- Watch for overhead obstructions such as wires, low overpasses, bridges and tree branches. The most common obstacles to watch for while towing wide machinery are gates and narrow driveways
- Before taking off, make sure the hitch pin is secure and can't accidentally work out of the hitch.

IF YOUR FUTURE includes plans to attend a four-year agricultural college, these statistics may prove interesting. According to the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges (NASULGC), the top five U.S. ag colleges in enrollment are as follows: University of California at Davis; Texas A&M University; Cornell University, New York; Iowa State and Purdue. According to the NASULGC, some ag colleges recorded major drops in enrollment last year. Among those with the largest drops are: Ohio State, down 33 percent; New Mexico State, off 28 percent; and the University of New Hampshire, which lost 22 percent of its ag college enrollment.



ABOUT ONE PERSON out of 40, or 2.6 percent of the nation's total population lived on farms in 1981, according to a joint report released by U.S. Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Department of Commerce's Census bureau. Farm population totalled 5.8 million, about 400,000 fewer than the 6.2 million farm residents in 1979. Forty-seven percent of all farm residents lived in the north central region of the country in 1981. The south, which until 1965 had the largest share of the farm total, ranked second with 34 percent.

BREAK OUT ON TOP!



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Selling Yourself: Making Job Talents Work For You

Getting a job these days can be tough, but these tips on resumes and interviews can help you find employment.

By Samuel Skeen

SOMETIME soon, you will join thousands of young people in a common effort. It may be four years or four weeks from now but you will participate in the event. Unless you plan self-employment, you will need to get a job—and—getting the job you want can be summarized in one word-"salesmanship."

You say you could never be a salesperson. Why not? The product you are marketing is one you should know most about—yourself. Let's emphasize the word "should," because you probably have many skills you may not even recognize or never considered important. The first phase in your job-seeking plan will be to uncover those hidden traits that are attractive to an employer.

If you have taken advantage of the many opportunites offered in FFA, your self-appraisal will uncover several attributes. For example, were you, or are you an officer? If so, you have exhibited an ability for leadership. Are you the chairman of a special or standing committee? Employers are looking for workers who, when given a responsibility, have the ability to get the job done by doing it themselves or supervising its completion.

Being able to communicate clearly, verbally or in writing, is a must for many jobs. If you have been in a public speaking contest or written articles for the newspaper, you possess another valuable work related skill.

As you work on your self appraisal, write down everything you can think of that you have done. And don't limit your thoughts to FFA activities. Consider church, school, sports and extracurricular accomplishments.

No FFA member can complete a self-appraisal without an in-depth look into his or her occupational experience (SOE) program and the benefits derived from it. If your SOE program was an agribusiness placement, you will be able to list additional work experience on your resume. However, if your SOE program was carried out on your farm, consider those functions you might write off as being "habits." Do you plan ahead and start work on your own without being told? Employers appreciate efficient workers who demonstrate initiative.

When considering work-related attributes, don't fail to list those abilities commonly recognized as "skills." Do you have an aptitude for mechanics? Can you weld or do simple electrical repairs? What machines are you adept at using? List everything. It may not be necessary to list all these skills when you apply for a job because they may not be related. But who is to say that your career plans won't change? Once you have listed these skills, you have a record for future use.

Step two in the job search is the preparation of a resume—an important document that summarizes your skills for the prospective employer.

There are generally three accepted resume formats. The first, most common form presents your personal data in a *chronological* format. Work experience and education are listed in reverse order. That is, your last job is listed first, the job before that, second, and so on. But unless you have had either paid or volunteer work experience, this format should not be used.

If you have no paid work experience but have completed the self-appraisal, the resume should be written on a *functional* format. This style allows the beginning job seeker to stress the specific skills he or she possesses. Skills pertinent to the job being sought are stessed and listed first.

The third type of resume is the *combination* form. As the name implies, this stresses accomplishments and allows the applicant to list work experience.

Once all the personal data has been listed and style decided, resume preparation can begin. Since the resume may be your initial contact with the employer, it is crucial that it be neat and attractive. While a good resume can "get your foot in the job door," a poorly written and smudged sheet also conveys a message that could slam the door in your face. Your resume should be typewritten if at all possible.

(Continued on page 32)

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The Many Faces of Kenny Davis

It's a rare individual who can excel in both leadership and production agriculture skills. Meet one FFA member who has.

Left, Kenny takes a break from feeding cattle on the Davis family farm near Guthrie, Oklahoma. Inset: winning it all at the National Prepared Public Speaking Contest in 1981.

For most FFA members, the chances of making it to the stage of the National FFA Convention represent a once-in-a-lifetime dream come true. A trip across the stage in Kansas City can only mean one thing: achievement. But for FFA'er Kenny Davis, convention appearances are quickly becoming routine.

Kenny, 18, lives on a cattle and grain farm just west of Guthrie, Oklahoma. He attends Oklahoma State University at Stillwater, majoring in agricultural economics. Most of his time now is taken up by studies. But during his active years in FFA, Kenny was a busy young man—both as a leader *and* as a future farmer. Very busy indeed.

As a junior in 1981 he challenged himself to write and deliver a prepared speech at the local FFA public speaking contest; six months later he was speaking to a crowd of 22,000 fellow FFA members in Kansas City—he ended up winning the national contest.

As if that achievement weren't enough, he set out this past year to try his hand at a local FFA extemporaneous speaking contest. He again earned top honors, earning second place in the western region contest with his speech at Kansas City. Meanwhile, he found time to accept his plaque as the 1982 western region beef proficiency winner for his top-notch SOE program in Chianina cattle. Kenny currently runs about 65 head of Chianina cattle in a cow/calf operation on the Davis family farm near Guthrie.

Kenny likes to attribute his success to a strong vo-ag background and family farm tradition. We spoke with him in an exclusive interview about leadership, public speaking—and his decision to go into farming:

FUTURE FARMER: Kenny, the most obvious question: how does it feel to have gone to the national convention and competed in not one, but two public speaking contests and a national FFA proficiency contest?

DAVIS: I feel very fortunate, because all those things are things I dreamed of doing but also seemed a long ways off, things that would be very challenging to do. To accomplish any one of them was a dream for me, but things just fell into place.

FUTURE FARMER: What's it like up there on stage at the national convention? You've been up there enough to know.

DAVIS: What I remember most about speaking is the pressure. There's a lot of people out there watching you, but you've got to also feel like you're up there by yourself alone, as if you were going through your speech by yourself like any other time.

FUTURE FARMER: When did you first want to get involved in speaking contests?

DAVIS: I was in a 4-H contest in seventh grade when I first started speaking. I enjoyed the chance to speak and I thought it was something that could help me a lot. No matter what you do, you're always going to need the ability to communicate with people.

When I got into FFA as a freshman that became one of my goals, to get involved in public speaking. I started on the Greenhand speech, and then I gave the creed. From there on I gave FFA speeches, animal science and dairy speeches. It's been one of the areas I've really enjoyed, and I think it's one of the areas where FFA can really help you.

FUTURE FARMER: Is there any specific secret you can reveal about writing and delivering a successful speech?

DAVIS: Practice. I know that it definitely got easier as I practiced, and it's one thing you've got to do no matter what. The more you get up in front of people and speak, the easier it becomes for you. I remember the first contest I was in I was just scared to death. It was really hard to keep the words flowing. The more you practice and the more you use your skills at speaking the better you'll become at it. That doesn't mean you won't be nervous—but you will get better.

FUTURE FARMER: You went all the way to number one with your prepared speech as a junior in high school. What motivated you to try again the next year with an extemporaneous speech?

DAVIS: Extemp was something I had always wanted to get involved in, but once I got involved in prepared, I didn't have time for it. It was something I hadn't tried before. I think it's a little bit better test of what kind of speaker you really are, because you've got to be able to think on your feet, come up with the ideas quickly to write the speech. It's not something you can be totally familiar with going into because you don't know your subject until thirty minutes before you give your speech.

FUTURE FARMER: Let's talk about the Davis farm and your SOE program. How did you get your beef program started?

DAVIS: I got started in 1976 when I bought a Simmental show heifer. For awhile I continued to increase my Simmentals, thinking I would have a registered Simmental herd. Later on I decided the Chianina would be better cattle. I have some Angus, Angus-Maine/Anjou cross and those original Simmentals—I'm crossing them all with Chianina. Chianinas put so much growth on. I've been involved in showing steers and heifers for a long time, and over the past few years Chianina have dominated.

FUTURE FARMER: What else is the family farm involved in?

DAVIS: I have some wheat, and I'm involved working the ground, harvesting, which takes up a lot of time in the summer and fall. In total, including my older brothers Steve, Rick, myself and my dad, we farm just over 3,000 acres, and we own about 2,000 of it. I also help work on the dairy. Seems like there's always enough to keep me busy. (laughs)

FUTURE FARMER: What is most important to beginning young farmers like yourself?

DAVIS: I think quality and management are two of the most important things. Today, if you're not an effective manager, there's just no way you can economically survive. If you can keep the quality up, for example, for breeding as well as on the feeder cattle market, you can increase your chances of getting better prices.

FUTURE FARMER: Do you plan to farm for a living?

DAVIS: Yes. I've made up my mind more definitely in the last couple of years. I think you've got to be happy in what you're doing, no matter what kind of money is involved. Happiness with your job is the most important thing. Farming is something I've always enjoyed doing, and it's really the only kind of life I think I'd enjoy.

FUTURE FARMER: What was it about FFA that sparked Kenny Davis to accomplish so much?

DAVIS: FFA is something that won't help you at all unless you get involved in it. The more I got involved in it the more I saw what I could gain from FFA and how it could help me. For freshmen who aren't sure about it, the only way you can find out what FFA can do for you is to try. It could be livestock judging, or public speaking—whatever. As long as you get involved and give it a try, you're going to find out that there's a lot of things FFA can do for you.

FUTURE FARMER: Can you remember any specific incidents which might have led to your success?

DAVIS: The thing I remember most was listening to a tape of the people in the national speaking contest when I was a sophomore. The more I listened, the more I began to realize I could do that too—if I worked at it hard enough. There's nothing any more special about FFA members in the national contest—they've just worked hard enough at it and have been able to be consistent enough at it.

The hard work that you put into it can definitely put you there, because I know I didn't think I had the talent to make it that far. But it doesn't take anybody really special. It just takes hard work. •••

Graduation and the work world may seem a long way off. But that's no reason to postpone thinking about your future and the kind of career to pursue. This is The National FUTURE FARMER's *second in a series of stories designed to inform you about career opportunities in agriculture.*

Ag Mechanics

By Shirley Jones

IN this life, you're either mechanical or you're not.

Most of my friends and I fall into the second category. If there's a noise in the car engine, we turn up the radio. A flashing warning light doesn't mean anything; it's just a "short" (a word without meaning, but one that sounds impressive). And one gentleman I know always does the right thing when his car gives him trouble: he puts the hood up and then calls the nearest garage.

If, as you read the first two paragraphs, you thought we were silly and your hands itched to take my friend's car apart to find the trouble, you may have the attitude and talents which could lead to a career in agricultural mechanics.

Like any career, ag mechanics requires certain abilities and characteristics. According to an Iowa State University Bulletin, a "yes" answer to any of the following questions may mean you should consider mechanics as a career:

- Do you enjoy working on agricultural machinery? Trouble shooting to identify a problem?
- Do you like working with numbers? Science?
- Do you like to use technical information?
- Do you have a concern for people? Enjoy solving their problems?

For FFA'er Jim Jamerson of Sumner, Washington, those questions were easily answered. "I've always liked to work on machinery and I always wanted to be in agriculture," says Jim. "so I thought, why not combine the two?"

Jim's interest was sparked by welding classes in vocational agriculture. He soon found his interest extended past class time into the evening hours.

"I just don't like to sit at home," says the 1982 Western Region winner of FFA's Agricultural Mechanics proficiency award. "You could usually find me at school at night working on my project."

As with most vo-ag students, high school graduation quickly caught up with Jim and he had to decide about his future. Ag mechanics was so appealing he continued his education at a nearby vocational school with a two-year program. Jim's choice was an automotive and gas engine program because "I figure I can adapt it to any kind of agricultural work."

Many FFA members like Jim choose further training with a two- or four-year program. Such programs are available at many vocational schools and at agricultural colleges and universities.

Vo-ag Instructor Steve Hickey of Shenandoah, Indiana, encourages his students to take that route. "I push more schooling because I think they need as much training as they can get.

Shirley Jones is a former FFA State Officer, WC P counselor and National FFA information intern. She currently works as Communications Manager for Agri Business Associates in Indianapolis, Indiana.

It increases their chances of getting a job and of being good at that job."

The more experience the better, says Mr. Hickey. Though students who have a background in mechanics seem to get started more quickly, people without prior experience can be good mechanics, too. "At first," smiles Mr. Hickey, "students get into the shop and think 'Everybody knows what they're doing but me,' and they're scared. As soon as they get their hands dirty, they find that most of the skills can be learned."

Which skills are to be learned is one factor in choosing a post-secodary (after high school) school, says Mr. Hickey. "There are so many facets of some skills, like welding, that you need to look at how intensively you want to be trained. Other factors are how much you can afford to spend and how far away you are willing to move to get your education."

Like any occupation, there are occasional drawbacks. "Sometimes I work very long hours," says Jim. "Once I stayed up until 5 a.m. to get a job done. But it's worth the hard work," he adds, "because the work is something I want to do, not something I have to do."

FFA activities are a natural way to gain additional experience. Jim's participation in the Agricultural Mechanics contest was valuable. However, he echoes what most past members say: "I could have done so much more."

Public speaking is one area where Jim says he could have been more involved. "I can get up and talk in front of a group, but I still feel uneasy," he says.

Salaries for ag mech positions vary from job to job, and most are paid on a per-hour basis. Much depends on who you work for, your job responsibilities and your willingness to relocate, says Mr. Hickey. But salary is no issue for Jim, who says his most important consideration now is getting experience.

"Eventually I want to open my own shop," he says.

"Mechanics is a real chance to watch something happen," Jim reflects. "But what I like most is the nature of the work.

"You can see when you've done a good job. Everybody can see when you've done a good job.

"And that's enough for me." •••

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FFA's Star Farmers: What

Four of FFA's best young farmers, clockwise from top right: Kevin Robinson of Eskridge, Kansas, Star Farmer of America; Greg Krush, western region star from Kersey, Colorado; Mark Yeazel, eastern region star from Eaton, Ohio; and Southern Region Star George Clemmer of Mosheim, Tennessee.

Photos by Bill Stagg

It Takes To Be The Best

Becoming the best isn't easy, but when it comes to launching careers in farming, these four Star Farmers are, to say the least, highly qualified

By Michael Wilson

Editor's Note: If someone were to ask, "What does it take to become one of the best young farmers in the nation?" how would you answer it?

The question can't be answered in one sentence, perhaps not even a page. In fact, the answer behind that million-dollar question could probably fill a book.

That's the question we asked FFA's four regional Star Farmers after they were selected to represent the best FFA has to offer in the field of production agriculture. Few FFA members are as uniquely qualified to address such a question, because these young men are no longer "future farmers." For them, preparation-time is over. Now, each one is farming full-time, putting in the hours, and racing to become established in the game of agriculture.

No one said becoming the best, let alone getting started in farming, is easy. But each of these FFA'ers accepted the challenge and have made beginnings which spell longtime success for the future. As a result, we offer here their insights to what may be one of the most difficult-to-answer questions of all: What does it take to become the best?

"I WOULDN'T give up the farm life for anything in the world," says Kevin Robinson of Eskridge, Kansas. Kevin's love for farming is the reason he was named Star Farmer of America last November at the National FFA Convention in Kansas City, Missouri.

"I feel that way mainly because you're outdoors, you're your own boss, you set your own goals and you can watch your work grow," Kevin says. A devotion for everyday farm work is a key factor behind Kevin's success. "I love taking a plain, freshly worked field and in a few months making it a beautiful field of milo, corn or wheat . . . it's just a great life," he says.

Kevin lives on a diversified farm in east central Kansas with his parents and two younger brothers. The farm produces wheat, milo, soybeans, corn, sorghum, hay, as well as market cattle and hogs. The Robinson's supplement farm income through outside custom farm work. Although many farmers today are becoming more specialized, Kevin says he likes the farm's variety.

"I think it's better if you don't carry all your eggs in one basket," he says. "The reason I'm so diversified is you can usually catch a high market in one of my areas. That helps in riding the ups and downs of the market."

Kevin's SOE program began in 1976 with a few cows and calves, 107 market hogs and 79 acres of crops. He's now handling over 1,000 acres, a large cow/calf operation plus feeding over 500 cattle. He also owns a complete line of farm equipment which he's helping pay for through the custom work. Several factors contribute to his success.

"My parents have been the greatest," says Kevin. "They gave me the chance to learn, grow, take responsibilities and chances.

"My FFA advisor has shown me several new ideas, learning new skills to help cut costs of the farm," he continues. "He's taught me many leadership skills which I use all the time in dealing and talking with people. And he opened my eyes to the FFA. I learned you can only get out of the FFA just what you put into it."

Finances are one of the toughest challenges for young farmers, says Kevin. "My banker has been of great help, because without credit it would be very hard to start farming."

Kevin feels opportunities for young people to start farming today are slim. "If you aren't raised on a farm and have some help from your family it could be very hard to start up farming today," he says. "With high interest, high input costs, expensive land and machinery combined with low farm prices, it's sometimes hard to make a living." However, says the Star Farmer, much can be accomplished through setting goals.

"I set my goal for Star Farmer my freshman year in high school," says Kevin. "I went to the national convention my freshman year and watched the Stars Over America show. Right after that, I set my goal for that award and worked seven years for it.

"It has been a great seven years."

Gregory Krush, western region Star Farmer, has a somewhat more optimistic outlook about getting started in farming, based on personal experience. But the picture still isn't rosy.

"I think people can still get into farming if they are willing to work hard and make a lot of sacrifices," says the 20-year-old. "They may have to use old equipment, or do some things by hand, or maybe have another job in town to supplement their income. I didn't have access to a home-owned farm to start my operation on, and I still was able to get my own dairy."

Greg's operation consists of 45 registered holstein cows and about 45 heifers, plus a few steers and bulls. His herd averages 19,000 pounds milk and 675 pounds butterfat. But he literally started with nothing.

"When I entered vo-ag and FFA I lived on a dairy where my mother was employed as a herdsman," he explains. "I bought my first heifer in 1975 with some money I had saved. Through my years in school I continued to buy more animals with income from my cows, several small loans from FmHA and with money earned working on several different dairies.

"I made an agreement with the owner where my mother worked to keep my cows there," Greg continues. "I paid him for feed, and he paid me for the milk." Soon Greg began looking for a dairy of his own. But it wasn't easy.

"It was difficult to find a dairy to rent, and I didn't find one until December of my senior year," he recalls. "I went to FmHA and got financing to buy more cows and the equipment I would need to get the place fixed up, since it needed quite a bit of work. It had been empty for seven years."

Greg's personal initiative has resulted in a solid beginning as a dairy farmer. He credits several reasons: first, the FmHA loan needed to start; and second, his experience on 4-H and FFA dairy judging teams, which he says helped him know what to look for in a dairy cow.

"But probably the most important factor in my having my own dairy is just plain hard work, not being afraid to go out and work 18 hours a day when you have to," he adds.

George Clemmer, 21, of Mosheim, Tennessee found a successful start in farming through partnership with his mother, Ona Clemmer. The Clemmer family lives on a grain and livestock farm where George's first SOE program was a beef cattle project. He later added hay, tobacco, soybeans and corn. He notes that farm recession in

(Continued on Page 28)

In Ohio JVS Spells Opportunity

FFA members get more skills faster through this unique vocational high school system

THREE years ago as high school sophomores, Ohio FFA'ers Brad Andres and Mike Halderman began a quest. Each wanted a way to get more specialized training out of their vocational agriculture classes. For different reasons, each wanted more ag mechanics skills, but for two different reasons—and neither FFA member wanted to wait until high school graduation before getting those skills.

The answer to both students' needs came in the form of three letters: JVS. JVS is short for "Joint Vocational Schools," and in Ohio, it spells faster, more intensified training for vo-ag students who want skills in a specialized field.

Mike, 18, from Eaton, Ohio, attended nearby Montgomery County JVS at Clayton, Ohio as a junior and senior majoring in ag mechanics. He says he had to pass certain requirements during his first two years of high school before being accepted. "It's just like applying for a college," says Mike.

Montgomery County JVS covers 26 area high schools in a six-county area. The joint vocational schools, which have been in operation since 1965, offer several specialized areas of study, including farm management and landscaping.

Mike's career goal is to run an agribusiness someday, with plans to attend a four-year university. "My ag mechanics training is secondary," he says, "but it's a valuable skill to fall back on if I need it."

Mike says what's best about the JVS program is the hands on experience. "We talk about it in class, but in lab you go out and do it," he says. Mike estimates at least 75 percent of his time at JVS was spent in mechanics-related classes and laboratories. Other times academic subjects such as English, history and math were studied also, although one JVS requirement is to take most of those courses *before* applying.

If your grades are up to par, he says, you can "co-op"—work at a nearby business as part of JVS course work. And that can lead to a permanent job after JVS graduation or, at the least, a solid work experience for your resume. Mike says his four-year university plans are unusual compared to his fellow JVS graduates. "The majority go straight to a job," he says.

Brad Andres, 20, also learned ag mechanics skills at an Ohio JVS. But he never intended it to make a difference in his career. "I just wanted to go to a JVS to make my ag mech skills better," he says. "But it turned out to be an opportunity for a job while I wait to go back into the family dairy business." Brad, from Bryan, Ohio, attended Four-County Vocational School where he was very active in FFA as a dairy judge, earning the State Farmer degree. He says his only difficulty was making the decision to leave high school after his sophomore year.

"I had to take care of most math and science courses my first two years before JVS," he says. "It was a rough decision to leave—but I was glad I did."

A 1982 JVS graduate, Brad now works for Spangler Implement in Bryan, Ohio. It's the same company that hired him as part of his JVS "co-op" work program. He plans to stick with it until the time is right for a return to the family dairy. "The officials at the school follow up with the students years later, checking to see if they got jobs," he says. "They'll also see if they need help finding another (job)."

Brad, like Mike, says hands on experience is the big difference between regular high school and JVS programs. The results are significant. "I do just about everything right now, to the point of overhauling engines, hydraulics, welding—anything dealing with mechanics," he says.

Learning by Doing has been a central theme of most Joint Vocational Schools, says Richard Hummel, an Ohio JVS area supervisor. At Columbiana County JVS, members of the school's FFA chapter farm a 427-acre diversified livestock and crop farm as part of their training experience. The farm, near Lisbon, Ohio, is owned by Columbiana County and leased to the FFA chapter as a learning center. And the learning comes in all forms—here, FFA members grow corn, oats, soybeans, wheat and hay; they learn about livestock production through the farm's sow farrow-to-finish operation, cow/calf operation and feeder steer program. FFA members also plant and harvest vegetables.

In the case of Columbiana, the FFA chapter also performs a community service on the farm. Last year the chapter planted 27 varieties of corn in a series of test plots, comparing yields in fields of no-till, conventional till and minimum tillage methods. As a result, the students furnished area farmers with a summary of their findings, as well as information regarding rainfall and degree days. •••

Top, FFA'er Brad Andres, and above, Mike Halderman: both now use ag mechanics skills on jobs which resulted indirectly from JVS training.

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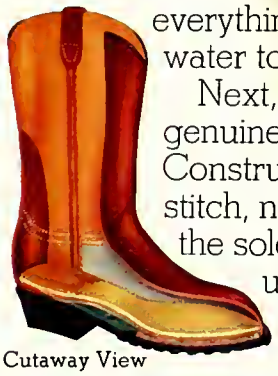

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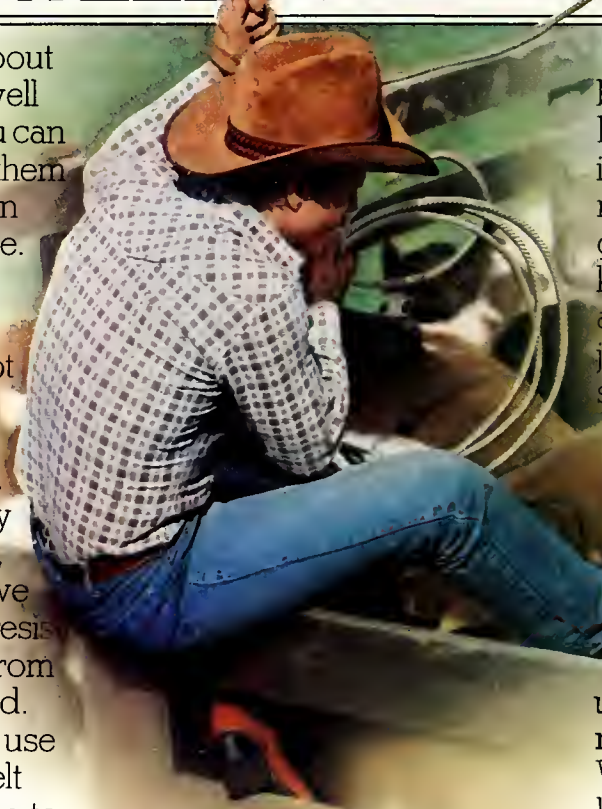

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100 Degrees For Mr. Boyd

A quiet but distinguished acheivement was made during the National FFA Convention last November in Kansas City, a record that might never be matched. No announcement was made, no bands played in honor of this achievement. In fact, save for some few close personal and professional friends, only one man was able to grasp the full meaning of what took place.

That man is W. S. Boyd, a North Carolina veteran teacher of vocational agriculture. Mr. Boyd sat quietly in the audience that day, amid the convention clamor, as his 100th American Farmer Degree recipient walked proudly across the floor to receive his degree.

For the recently retired Mr. Boyd, the 100th degree capped a satisfying and brilliant career as a vo-ag teacher; for FFA, the 100-degree mark represents a record which, in all likelihood, will never be matched.

Not in North Carolina. And probably not anywhere in the country. The closest most ag teachers come to Mr. Boyd's achievement is about half of what the 37-year teacher has accomplished.

Mr. Boyd began teaching in 1941 at Evergreen High School, North Carolina. A native Mississippian, he spent most of his teaching career at Central High School in Cumberland County, which later consolidated into Cape Fear High School. In addition to his American Farmer achievement, Mr. Boyd's was FFA advisor to one of the first chapters in North Carolina to receive a gold emblem award in the National Chapter Awards program. He's coached about 100 state winners in various individual and team FFA activities, and organized one of the first FFA Alumni affiliates in the state. His achievements earned him the national FFA organization's VIP citation last year at the national convention.

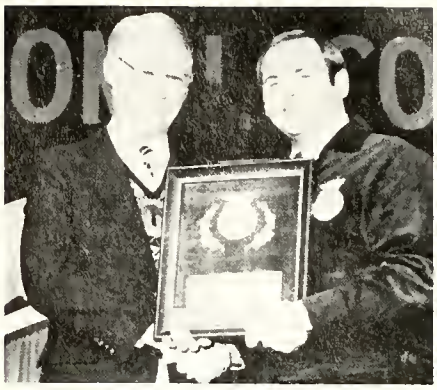
Mr. Boyd credits part of the success to setting goals as a young ag teacher back in the 1940s. "I always liked setting goals, so I set my goal for 50 Degrees," chuckles Mr. Boyd. "A lot of people said 'you'll never make it.'"

Even though Mr. Boyd's accomplishment may never be matched, he says the satisfaction lies in helping each vo-ag student reach his or her goal. As a result of their training, FFA'ers received self-confidence, motivation and "the ability to want to get ahead."

"It's a good feeling to see the progress these students make," he says. "Now, every one of them is a leader in their community."

Mr. Boyd says one reason behind the success is that he spent much time motivating students through FFA. "Even as freshmen, if a student was really interested in obtaining the American Farmer degree, he knew what he had to do to achieve his goal.

"It's been a challenge," he says, smiling, "But I've enjoyed it." •••



Right, Mr. Boyd (left) receives FFA's VIP Citation from national officer John Pope at last November's National FFA Convention.

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Leadership: It's Not Just F

Keeping your FFA chapter strong is a job for everyone, from the officers to the greenest Greenhand. There's a leadership role for you too, but the secret is finding what that role is.

By Michael Wilson

We talk about it, brag about it, we love to hear personal examples of it. But can anyone explain what the word "leadership" *really* means?

No one can deny that, throughout the great avenues of time, FFA has played a major role in producing leaders for agriculture and for this country. It's no rumor—it's fact. Ask Secretary of Agriculture John Block, or former President Jimmy Carter, both past FFA members.

But what has always been FFA's strength—that is, developing leaders—also, ironically, causes some confusion as well. Simply put, some FFA leaders are so polished and such good speakers, it's easy to think that their form of leadership is the only kind available. Meanwhile, the complete definition of leadership—"the capacity to lead"—is often overlooked.

But there's no "restricted" sign posted on the word leadership. And it's important to realize leadership can take shape in all forms and at all levels of FFA membership, not just the flawless public speaker or the president of the chapter.

This story is not about to explain how you're going to become a great leader. But it will try to point out some often-times common misunderstandings made when defining leadership.

"So many of us, when we think of being a leader, think of being an officer. But there is a big difference between being a leader and being an officer," says Bobby Tucker, 1975-76 national FFA president from Texas. "There are a lot of people who are officers who are not leaders. And there's a lot of leaders who are never officers."

Robert "Woody" Cox agrees with Bobby. "I think the one thing so many FFA members don't understand about leadership is that it's not all public speaking or parly pro—it's more than that," says Mr. Cox, who serves as executive director of the National FFA Alumni Association. "You can communicate and lead in many different ways. You can be a leader by doing a successful job every year planting your corn. Before long you'll have other farmers following you."

The Alumni Association has more than a passing interest in FFA leadership development. Since 1977 the organization has sponsored leadership workshops held in conjunction with the National FFA Convention. Judging from FFA members' enthusiasm—consistent standing room only crowds—the six-year experiment has been an overwhelming success. Over 6,000 FFA

Photos by Author

r Superheroes

members attended ten leadership sessions during last year's convention. Bobby Tucker was just one of several past national leaders who conducted those sessions.

One session revealed an important element sometimes lost in leadership glamour. "You have to be able to stick your neck out to be a good leader," says Shirley Jones, a former FFA leader in charge of one workshop. "It doesn't always look 'cool' to be the one guy in your chapter who sticks up for what you want, or to be the girl who goes home at night and practices her speech instead of riding around town with everybody else; it doesn't always look very cool to all the other people in school, but I think once it's all over you'll find out it's really worth it to stick your neck out to be a leader."

Popularity in school, great athletic ability or exceptional amounts of money don't make good leaders either, says Ms. Jones. That's not to say those things are bad—they're just not good reasons for voting someone into a leadership position. It's important to recognize the difference between a person who is merely flashy and someone who might seem ordinary but still possesses leadership qualities. You'll especially want to keep that in mind during important times like officer elections.

Another misconception is that big is better when it comes to FFA achievements. "Too many of us think that if you're not a state officer, national officer, Star Farmer or national proficiency award winner you're not a success, that your time in FFA was a waste. But that's not so, because everyone who joins FFA gets something out of it," says Ms. Jones. The goals you set for yourself are important, no matter how insignificant you may think they seem to others. Personal satisfaction in achieving those goals is more important than a wall full of trophies.

"If you work hard, be enthusiastic, meet new people, understand what leadership really is—and if you take all those things and wind them together, it can make wearing that blue jacket really worthwhile," she adds.

Tony Hoyt, program assistant for the national FFA organization's Leadership program, says leadership is the "ability and the opportunity to guide, direct and serve others based on experience, training, motivation and desire.

"The purpose of leadership is to bring out the best in others and help others find their potential," he says. "The real leader is interested in serving. One of my favorite quotes is, 'If you don't care who gets the credit you can accomplish almost anything.' "

Mr. Hoyt, whose main responsibility is guiding each new team of national officers, says with leadership everyone has a different role. "My area of leadership may be different from yours. Sure there can be only one president. But that doesn't mean a committee member's leadership isn't just as important to the success of that organization.

"I think it's important for young people to know that we all have an important role to play," he says. That's a valuable lesson which could prevent misgivings later.

"When I was in FFA, I was upset because I didn't get to be president of the chapter," says one former FFA member. "Because I was so let down about that one incident, I turned off my enthusiasm for FFA. As a result, I missed out on a whole bunch of opportunities that I could have become involved in, like judging teams or other activities.

"Now I regret not being able to go back and make it up." •••

WCP—An Opportunity of a Lifetime

ONE way to find your own definition of leadership is by attending this year's Washington Conference Program (WCP). The program, held by the national FFA organization each summer in Washington, D.C., is designed to help FFA members build skills in agricultural leadership, cooperation and citizenship. If you're interested in visiting the nation's capital, the National FFA Headquarters and meanwhile want some of the best leadership training available from nationally-recognized FFA leaders, WCP 1983 may be for you.

Each year the program brings over 1,500 FFA members and advisors together for week-long sessions, beginning June 13 and running through August 12.

During their stay in Washington, D.C., FFA members have the opportuniy to meet congressmen, visit with a National FFA Officer, meet National FFA Advisor Byron Rawls, visit the National FFA Center and see Mount Vernon, George Washington's home. The list isn't complete without visits to the Lincoln Memorial, Washington Monument, Jefferson Memorial, Smithsonian museums, the White House, and Arlington Cemetery.

In addition to the sights and people, conference attendees have a chance to learn how they can be better leaders and better citizens from an experienced staff of former state and national FFA officers. Staff directors this year are former national vice presidents David Pearce and Jeff Kirby. Staff counselors include Ken Maxwell, Jeanette Jones, Larry Stoller, Maria Jasper and former national officers Jack Stewart, Melanie Burgess, Randy Hedge and John Pope.

The program costs $275 per FFA member, and some scholarships may still be available through the National FFA Foundation (see page 8 in this issue). For more details, check the WCP brochure that was mailed to your chapter in March. •••

Star Farmers

(Continued from Page 21)

recent years has caused more challenges than usual for young farmers like himself.

"The last few years have been hard ones because net income from the farm has gone down," says the Southern Region Star Farmer. "I've been trying to make better buys in fertilizer, seed and equipment, and have been doing a better job marketing the cattle and grains raised on the farm. I hold the debt load down to a very low point because of interest rates. The system we use is mostly a 'pay as you go' method, which has saved money by not paying high interest rates."

George says one factor behind his success is heeding experience. "I listen to a lot of farmers and see which ideas are best for our farm from some of the ideas they may have," he points out.

"The farmer starting today will have a hard road and slow growth without capital," he says frankly. "The farmer is usually the last to see an increase on his products and the first to see an increase on the goods he buys for his operation. I look for slow growth in the next few years.

"The opportunities for a young farmer starting out are there, but there's hard work, long hours, borrowed money and weather conditions there also," he says. "The future of the young farmer is to make good decisions in marketing, management and purchasing."

"I was never afraid to go after a goal that seemed far out of reach," reflects Mark Yeazel, Eastern region star farmer from Eaton, Ohio. Mark says three things contributed to his success: leadership abilities, strength of character and total involvement in the family dairy operation.

Mark's achivements have been many, including Ohio's Star State Farmer, Star State Dairy proficiency winner, and serving as national president of the agriculture honor society Delta Tau Alpha. He now makes many of the decisions on the family dairy farm, having recently graduated from Eastern Kentucky University with high honors in dairy management.

"As a Greenhand, I began with 5 percent of our 90-cow milking herd," says Mark. Each year of high school, Mark, his father Robert and Advisor Steve Rismiller would reevaluate Mark's SOE program. "After high school, it became a matter of gradually becoming a full partner," Mark reflects. "Now I am at 33 1/3 percent with my father and brother in the total operation, including 180 registered holsteins, 230 acres of crops and 350 purebred duroc hogs."

Mark's scientific, no-nonsense approach to farming has seen results. Since he's been home from college, the dairy herd has produced a 3,000-pound jump in milk production average. "The increase is due to ration changes, rigid culling, the sale of surplus inferior stock and the total increased management available for the herd," says Mark.

"I have very positive feelings about the future of our farm," he adds. "I hope to increase the overall quality each year and hope to exceed 21,000 pounds milk and 850 butterfat with our herd average."

Mark, a self-proclaimed adventurer, says a recent experience helped him handle challenges: "When I was rock climbing in Colorado, I came to a tough move about 750 feet off the ground and couldn't seem to go anywhere," he recalls. "My instructor told me to be flexible and use my imagination. A few unusual moves and I was soon off the wall because I looked at the problem from a different perspective.

"Now I keep that in mind for many situations," says Mark. "My advice for others is, don't be afraid to take chances and set your goals high. Set out a plan of action and go after it whole-heartedly." •••

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Keeping the Family Farm In the Family

If you think you may be returning to the family farm someday for good, you'll need to know some ways to handle that transition

By Bess Ritter May

IF you're a future farmer you've probably dreamed of working the family farm with your dad and taking it over when he retires. He's undoubtedly dreamed the same dream himself. So why not examine what's involved?

At the outset the plan makes excellent sense. Other than the home farm, there's little good land available, and the access to capital and the chance to accumulate it are small. Most important, farming under dad's guidance and encouragement is a great way to get essential management experience.

But is the farm productive enough to support two families? You may have a family of your own. Can you and your dad—and everyone else who will live on the farm—work together and share responsibilities without friction?

The only way to find out is to estimate how many dollars you and your parents will need for family living—and compare this with the expected business income of farming jointly. For example:

If you decide living expenses amount to $15,000 for each family, the farm's net income should be twice that sum—$30,000. But it's not that simple. Cash will also be needed for the payment of debts which the farm can be expected to assume, plus monies for essential farm business expansion. If you decide this figure will reach $15,000, the farm business should generate $45,000 net. But how much gross receipts will be needed to produce that net? Farm records across the country indicate that it takes approximately $2.5 gross to result in $1 net. This means that, in this example, your family farm must generate $112,500 gross income annually.

If the farm isn't yielding this much now, here are two ways to generate more income: first, off-farm employment could provide extra cash. Secondly, in some instances merely increasing the efficiency of the business right from the start—like expanding livestock enterprises or setting up intensified cropping programs—can yield the additional cash required.

Of course, you probably wouldn't want to farm with your dad unless you got along well together in both personal and business matters. But when the business is farming, all family members should be able to get along easily. This is important to remember, because more farm business arrangements are dissolved over trivial matters by relatives than over financial problems.

The best way to get started depends on what has happened in the recent past. If you've been away from the farm for several years, it may be best to start as a hired hand with a hired hand's wages. This will enable you to: 1) become reacquainted with the realities of working on a farm, and 2) start relating to your father as an adult and be in a better position to evaluate him as a business partner. Since you will be working for a wage, little will be lost if you decide at this point that your dream isn't practical.

But if you, indeed, feel that your dream is practical or you've been working contentedly with your dad on the family farm ever since grade school, high school and during college vacations, now is the time to consider a more permanent plan. This might be a wage and income sharing agreement with simple provisions: You will continue to receive a hired hand's pay—but you will also earn a share of the net income of the farm. This can be in the form of livestock, equipment, machinery or cash, and will provide a means of building your equity in the farm business. Most farm-owning dads like this arrangement because it gives their sons or daughters a chance to see the connection between high profits and hard work. It also encourages you to become more aware of production costs and take the view of the employer rather than the employee.

The next step is some form of joint operation plan. You may be asked to make a contribution from previous earnings of cash, livestock, land and machinery. Your farm chores and responsibilities will increase, along with decision making authority in more areas of the farm. But your pay should also be different. In lieu of receiving a wage (as before) plus a share of the income, you may now be compensated entirely—as is your dad—with a share of the net income of the farm.

(Continued on Page 36)

Job Talents

(Continued from page 12)

The layout of the resume is important. Limit length to one page. By leaving a space of at least one inch at the top, bottom and along each side, the resume maintains an attractive amount of white space. Paragraphs should be double spaced and kept short. Whenever a new catagory of information (i.e. Experience, Education, etc.) is listed, be sure the title is either off-set or underlined for emphasis.

Your name, address and telephone number are listed first on your resume. The next entry is the career objective. A general statement will allow the use of the same resume when applying for several different jobs.

When you begin listing the work-related skills you discovered in the self-appraisal, use "action words" as your lead. Instead of writing, "As chairman of the Finanace Committee, I ran our concession stand," list specifc duties. Depending upon the amount of responsibility you were given, you might write "Ordered food, scheduled workers and oversaw operation of concession stand."

Employment, education and activities follow the experience listing. List references if space is available. If there is no room, a statement of "references available upon request" will suffice.

ONCE the resume is written, the actual job hunt can begin. Newspaper ads, school counselors, FFA advisors and state employment agencies are sources which you might rely on to direct you to openings. Let your friends, relatives and neighbors know you are seeking employment. Through their work, social and business contacts, they often know of opportunities not advertized.

When you find an opening that interests you, contact the employer. Let him know you are interested in the job and ask to make an appointment for a personal interview. If the employer suggests you apply by mail, write a brief letter indicating your interest. Include a copy of your resume. Enclose a request for a personal interview.

You may not be asked to fill out a job application. Smaller businesses often forego the application; some larger companies require it. During

(Continued on page 43)

Interview Do's and Don'ts

DO:

- *Go alone—your parent or friend is not being interviewed*
- *Remain standing until you are asked to sit*
- *Let the interviewer initiate the hand shake*
- *Shake hands firmly but don't try to prove you have a strong grip*
- *Greet the interviewer by his or her last name, correctly pronounced*
- *Have some knowledge of the company and its products*
- *Arrive at the interview about 10 minutes early*
- *Prepare questions* before *you go in for the interview*

DON'T:

- *Smoke or chew gum during the interview*
- *Make negative comments about former employers or teachers*
- *Say "I need a job" or "I'll do anything" (To indicate your willingness to work without saying the above, you might state, "This is the job I want but I would consider another job that might utilize my skills and apptitudes")*
- *Be overbearing or pretend to "know-it-all"*
- *Emphasize "who" you know*
- *Make excuses or complain*
- *Discuss your personal problems*
- *Use slang language*

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Richard Williams: The Power Behind The Machines

As a machinery operator and mechanic in one of the country's leading oil-producing areas, this FFA member plays an important role in providing fuel for farmers and ranchers

By Michael Wilson

WITH a thunderous roar the bright yellow bulldozer blazes to life, breaking the silence of a sunny Texas morning. With smoke billowing from its lone stack and steel claws biting and churning in the sandy red soil, the huge machine moves the land with powerful grace and ease. Soon, another perfectly-orchestrated land-leveling and pit-digging job is completed.

At the center of action sits Richard Williams, the lone star state's 1982 Agricultural Mechanics proficiency winner. Richard, from Seagraves, Texas, is "the best bulldozer operator we've got" says his boss (and father) Joe Edd Williams. But operating a 'dozer is just one of this FFA'er's many talents in the power and machinery business.

Richard, 18, has worked at the family land construction business since

Top, Richard bulldozes through a "reserve pit" which must be done before oil companies can haul equipment onto the site. Left, he displays skills as a mechanic at "Williams Dirt Work," as Advisor Berryhill assists.

he was 11 years old. "Williams Dirt Work, Inc." was started by Mr. Williams in 1965, primarily catering to this area's booming oil business. Seagraves sits in one of Texas' most prolific oil-producing areas, the Permian Basin Oil Field. In nearby Denver City, the methodical up-and-down movement of pump jacks can be seen for miles and miles.

Although Richard's skill as a mechanic and heavy-machinery operator helped him earn the state's ag mechanics award and State Farmer degree, he readily admits the business is more oil than agriculture. But any farmer or rancher alive will grant the importance of fuel to farm production. Because of companies like Williams Dirt Work, an ample supply of fuel is constantly available for both urban and agricultural use.

When an oil company contracts Williams Dirt Work for land construction, the company uses their wide assortment of heavy machinery and trucks to level land, dig "reserve" pits (for soil as holes are drilled) and to spread a white-rock substance called calichi. Calichi is used as a base for many highways, and its resiliency allows the huge drilling machinery to work around the drilling area without getting bogged down. Later, after the drilling process is completed and pump jacks installed, Richard's family business comes in with excavators to clean up the area and restore it to farmland.

But the well-worn phrase "drilling for oil" doesn't do justice to the complex web of jobs performed before the oil reaches the gas tank on your tractor, says Richard. Specific tasks require specialized companies.

"There's probably about 350 oil field dirt contractors like ourselves who handle this kind of work in the area," says Mr. Williams. "There's up to 20 different service companies involved in getting oil out of the ground."

Oil companies like Texaco, Exxon, Arco and Santa Fe will lease the mineral rights from area land-owning farmers, says Richard. "We'll work real steady for one customer, then switch to another," he says. "Fifty percent of our work is for small, independent companies."

After the land is prepared, another company comes in to drill. Drilling for oil can reach depths of 3,000 to 14,000 feet, occasionally reaching to 20,000 feet says Richard. And the wide range of job challenges, like leveling uneven or rocky land, can cause costs to range between $750 to $50,000 per job. "We can usually do a job in three to four days, but sometimes it takes up to a month at a time," he says. The company works within a 100-mile radius of the main operation in Seagraves and operates a full line of trucks, bulldozers, maintainers, loaders and backhoes.

Mr. Williams estimates almost the entire economy in this west Texas area is either oil or agriculturally related. Sparsely populated with little vegetation or trees, much of the land is marginal; sandstorms can spring out of nowhere. Because of the hot, dry climate, cotton is the mainstay for area farmers. But there is a problem — it's called mesquite.

Mesquite is a spiny, deep-rooted tree or shrub that is common to most areas of the southwest and Mexico. It can grow in practically any soil, and nothing seems to stop its growth, much to the chagrin of cotton-growers. The pesky and persistent plant causes major headaches for Texas cotton farmers. That's where Williams Dirt Work comes in.

"The only way to get mesquite out for good is to bulldoze it into piles and burn it," says Richard.

Cotton farmers in the area depend on land leveling companies for mesquite removal before potential farm land can be cultivated. "The only way to get it out for good is to bulldoze it into piles and burn it," says Richard. Recently a farmer had Williams Dirt Work clear over 1,500 acres of mesquite-infested land. And the services can cost farmers about $28 per acre for thinly-populated mesquite removal up to $70 per acre where mesquite growth is thick.

"Mechanically Oriented"

Richard's skills as a mechanic are just as impressive as his skills as an operator. "Richard is mechanically oriented," says Seagraves FFA Advisor Randy Berryhill. "He not only runs it, he can build it and repair it as well."

Mr. Berryhill says Richard concentrated much of his vo-ag shop time into building and overhauling equipment. He spent time on FFA projects like overhauling irrigation engines and building panels and gates for the school's FFA farm. But he and a friend also rebuilt a bulldozer that had exploded and burned; he helped build a water tank for a company truck; and he overhauled a Mack 237 engine that the Williams' had pulled out of a truck. Add to that the countless hours of "hands-on" experience he's had installing new parts and tearing machinery apart as a regular routine at home, and Richard's work experience quickly becomes impressive.

Obviously, part of Richard's finesse with mechanical work comes from his experience at home. But two years of a Seagraves vo-ag class dubbed "pre-lab" also helped.

"Pre-lab is a pre-employment laboratory training class," says Mr. Berryhill. The class is held for juniors and seniors who have an interest in power machinery and mechanical work. Richard says the class "was right in line with my work at home."

A 1982 graduate, Richard plans to continue working in the family business both as a mechanic and as an operator. He'll be kept busy not only on the bulldozer, but with welding and building chores as well, as the company usually custom-makes most of their equipment. Richard plans to further his training by attending training programs sponsored by large machinery companies whenever possible. He says he's learned a lot about power machinery since he was young — but there's always room for more.

"Back when I was young it was just fun," he laughs. "Now it's more — it's a career." •••

Above, Richard takes command of the controls. "He's the best bulldozer operator we've got," says Mr. Williams.

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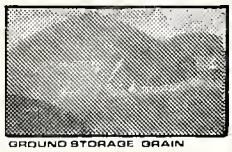
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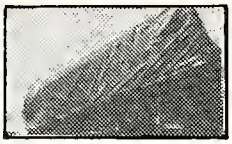
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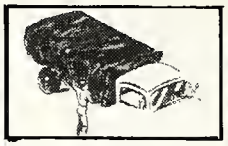
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1. Entrants must be bonafide members of the FFA who are in good standing. Each member may submit only one entry.
2. Message must be submitted in approximately 100 words or less stating how farmers and/or ranchers are improving the standard of living and the economy in North America.
3. Entries must conform to the rules of the contest, with the date submitted, name, age, address and phone number of the entrant, and the FFA Chapter legibly written.
4. Entries will be judged entirely upon their content, which should be original in nature.
5. In case of similar or duplicate messages, the one with the earlier postmark will be declared the winner. All entries become the property of Hesston Corporation.
6. Entries will be judged by a panel of agri-industry executives selected by Hesston Corporation. Judges' decisions are final and not subject to appeal.
7. Entries must be postmarked by Sept. 30, 1983 and mailed to "Salute", Hesston Corporation, Hesston, Kansas 67062.

Hesston Corporation, Hesston, Kansas 67062

HESSTON

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The **PRIME LINE**

Family Farm

(Continued from Page 31)

At this point you might both feel that a 1/3-2/3-arrangement is fair, with you receiving the smaller amount.

But when do you and dad become bona fide partners and enjoy a 50-50 arrangement? Many fathers and sons who work farms together feel joint operation should last 12 months or longer. Then the matter of a possible partnership should be reviewed with everyone involved (your mother, your spouse—if you have one—and other adult relatives on the farm) as well as your father and yourself. But make the final decision on your own by asking yourself three important questions:

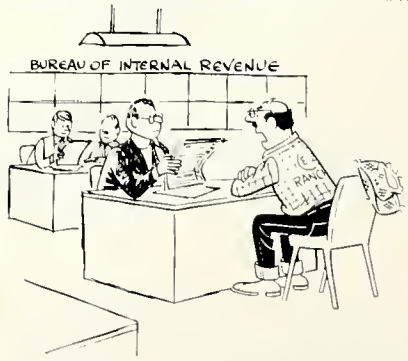
Do you think that farming is not for you, and that you'll be better off in a non-farming career?

Do you still want to farm as much as before—but not as a partner with your dad?

Do you feel that farming with your father on your own home farm is the only way to go?

If you're sure that this question is really what you want, make plans for a formal partnership. In general, the terms should specify that: you and dad will share business profits equally, you'll also share farm responsibilities and business losses; you and dad will both be the partnership's agents. This means that his acts concerning partnership matters will be binding on the partnership. Your business acts will have the same effect; both you and he will be liable for acts and obligations incurred by the other in the course of conducting the partnership's business.

But even when all angles of keeping the family farm "in the family" are carefully considered and approved, success is never guaranteed. Changes will occur which will demand adjustments; there will always be rough spots which must be smoothed. So all parties concerned must strive to make the planned arrangement work. •••



"You might say my farming income goes into five figures— my wife and four daughters."
The National FUTURE FARMER

A Cabbage or an Oak?

Sometimes Christian young people feel that high school graduation makes them "ready to serve." Understandably, they are eager to get busy for the Lord; but the question should be asked, "What will I be giving the Lord at this point—a cabbage or an oak tree?"

A cabbage takes only a few weeks to grow; an oak tree, years. And the character and contribution of the two contrast sharply. A cabbage's world is small; an oak's is great in both space and time.

College years are "oak-growing" years—and therefore particularly important to those who want to serve God.

Send your "seedling" high school graduate to the Bible-watered soil of Bob Jones University, where he or she can grow as an oak for the glory of the Lord.

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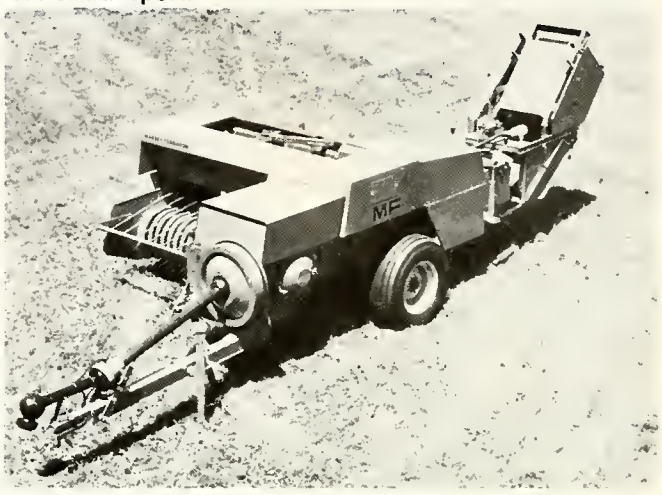
New in Agriculture

Above, Ford Tractor is adding four models to their Series 10 line of 30-to-90 horsepower tractors, including this 2310 shown here. Ford Motor Company recently introduced a tractor-industry first by offering three years of free tractor care with its new over-100-horsepower TW Series models.

Below, this MF224 is one of Massey Ferguson's newly introduced rectangular baler line including the MF228 and 220. The new MF212 hydraulic-drive bale thrower, also shown, fits all three balers. The balers feature advantages like a redesigned flywheel and inboard right-hand wheel for easier transport.



Recreation Roundup . . .

Above, these new Aspencade and Interstate helmets from Hondaline are available in both open face and full face styles, featuring a recessed racheting face shield.

Right, Suzuki's new ALT-125 3-wheeler boasts several new features including power low and reverse gears. The ALT-125 is powered by a TDCC fourstroke engine. Below left, UNIQUE Functional Products introduces a lightweight trailer designed to transport either 4- or 3-wheel vehicles. Features fold down tailgate.

Right, O.F. Mossberg & Sons, Inc., announces an all new limited edition rifle, the ROY ROGERS Signature Edition. It's a traditional straight grip lever-action in 30-30 Win. Cal., and made of American walnut and metal finish is deep lustre blued. Trigger is gold-finished.

Left, Imperial's new grip-contoured fish fillet knife features a rust-resistant and non-corrosive stainless blade with fully-lined sheath. Below left, Buck Knives introduces the Lake Mate, their new fish fillet knife which also features a non-slip, handfitted grip made of a tacky-feeling, textured Kraton, which washes clean with soap and water, with thong hole. The knife comes with a rich brown leather sheath that has an inner liner for added safety and dependable service.

Suzuki introduces one of the most important performance features ever offered on a new motorcycle:

Fast Money.

Get up to $300 back on a brand new Suzuki.

When you buy one of our selected '81 or '82 Suzukis between now and May 31st, we'll throw in a most desirable new feature: Fast Money. $75 to $300 worth of Fast Money, direct from U.S. Suzuki. And that, by the way, is above and beyond the best deal you make with your dealer.

In fact, you can even apply your Fast Money rebate toward your purchase, making it that much easier to get one of Suzuki's best street, touring, off-road or competition motorcycles (limited to stock on hand).

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News, Notes, and Nonsense from Everywhere

Chapter Scoop

by Jack Pitzer

The new flag pole outside the vo-ag department in *Lexington,* OK, was built by members so they could fly the FFA flag on days when the chapter will have its meetings and also during FFA WEEK.

N-N-N

Seventeen *Osceola,* MO, members surprised an FFA alumni member who had been injured in an accident when they spent one day cutting and delivering him a winter's supply of firewood.

N-N-N

The *Oshkosh West,* WI, Chapter has built a park next to the school in honor of a deceased school principal. The park has a waterfall and a pond in the midst of the horticultural display.

N-N-N

Jimmy Gaston, member of the *Caddo Hills* FFA in Norman, AR, rebuilt an antique walnut podium which had been given to the school by the class of 1935.

N-N-N

Many local chapters are publishing their own newsletters or bulletins these days. One example was the computer typeset edition published by the *Hereford,* MD, Chapter which they left for us when they toured the FFA Center this spring.

N-N-N

As a community service, *Del Norte,* CA, FFA will be cleaning a local cemetery monthly.

N-N-N

Two local chapters in Ohio, *Talawanda* and *West Chester,* combined efforts and put on a small animal display in a large city shopping center in Cincinnati.

N-N-N

After their annual big feed, the *Bridgewater,* SD, FFA gave parents a chance to see how a chapter meeting is run and also put on some ag mechanics demonstrations.

N-N-N

It was good to get a news item from a Texas Chapter. The *Richards* FFA sent word about the success of their livestock judging team.

N-N-N

The title of the chapter newsletter for *Elgin,* OH, is Elgin Blue Jacket Journal.

N-N-N

In the *Zillah,* WA, Chapter newsletter (which is also produced on the printer of the school computer) is an article about the chapter's efforts at coordinating a community effort to obtain and equip a new emergency service vehicle.

Nancy Cook put her artistic talents to use and created a cartoon for the Oklahoma state FFA newsletter called *The Outlook.*

N-N-N

York County, PA, FFA'ers were the benefactors of Mr. Arthur Gladfelter's insurance agency who purchased the grand champion steer at the local show and then donated the beef to the youth of the county to raffle.

N-N-N

Another well written chapter newsletter is from the *Central* FFA in DeWitt, IA. They have a nifty idea to stimulate attendance at chapter meetings by including the names of all those who attended the last meeting. It recognizes those who cared enough to attend and it puts a burr under those who didn't.

N-N-N

The FFA Parents' Club of *Hanford,* CA, FFA presented a check for $3,300 to the chapter as their share of the proceeds from the football concession stand operated by the parents and the chapter members.

N-N-N

Here's a helpful idea. *Granton,* WI, members fill used milk cartons with salted sand each year and distribute them to the faculty and chapter members to use during bad weather emergencies.

N-N-N

They had a 70 percent increase in membership at the *West St. John* Chapter in Edgard, LA, by adding 18 new members to their two-year-old chapter.

N-N-N

An old fashioned corn husking contest sponsored by the *River View* FFA in Warsaw, OH, was a nifty recreation feature.

N-N-N

And for their recreation, the *Slayton,* MN, Chapter went to see the Minnesota North Stars play the Washington Capitals. The game ended 4 to 4.

N-N-N

The hard work for farm safety by the *Roff,* OK, Chapter has resulted in 25 members being certified as private pesticide operators.

N-N-N

Ruby Mountain, NV, FFA helped with the annual man-mule race over a 20-mile stretch between Lamoille and Elko.

N-N-N

Sarasota senior FFA in FL planted 50 trees on the school grounds for Arbor Day. The trees were given to the FFA by the state department of forestry.

The *St. Marys,* OH, FFA organized a demonstration to show area paramedics how to shut off various kinds of farm machinery in case of farm emergencies in the community.

N-N-N

Garretson, SD, FFA has its own speed Creed speaker, Tom Karli, a sophomore, can recite the entire FFA Creed from memory in just 29 seconds.

N-N-N

When members of *W.B. Saul* FFA in Philadelphia, PA, visited a local home for the elderly they took flowers and fruit.

N-N-N

Talk about embarrassing! The *West Valley,* WA, FFA played the sheriff's department in a donkey basketball game. The final score was FFA 28 — sheriffs 30. But it wouldn't have been so if **Shawn Rehfield** hadn't scored a basket for the other team.

N-N-N

The cooperative concept has always been an important learning tool in vo-ag. The latest idea we've heard about is a seed corn dealership within the class. The members at *Fairbanks,* OH, are working to set up such a cooperative with a local seed corn representative.

N-N-N

"The Game Wardens," one of the pest control teams for the *Lamar,* CO, FFA, won a free trip to the local pizza parlor for their winning efforts.

N-N-N

The *Caldonia,* MI, FFA had a mini Stomper truck pull at the Christmas party.

N-N-N

The sunflower contest is always a popular event in *Oshkosh North,* WI. It's sponsored by a local realty firm with help from the FFA. The contest is for elementary students with prizes for the largest sunflower heads.

N-N-N

Talk about going on the road to sell your product. The *Devils Tower* FFA in Hulett, WY, gave Food For America demonstrations to South Dakota schools in Belle Fourche and Spearfish.

N-N-N

The *Seward,* NE, FFA asked the state's energy office to set up its gas saver van in the vo-ag shop. The van has a computer which tests vehicle efficiency. Seventeen teacher and student-owned vehicles were tested for rpm, current, battery, distributor resistance, dwell, hydrocarbons and carbon monoxide emission levels.

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Dear FFA Advisor:

As you are probably aware, the National FFA Supply Service receives thousands of telephone orders annually, and especially during the months of March, April, and May. This is becoming a very expensive part of our total operations. Unfortunately, this extra cost must now be passed on to our customers who are using the telephone ordering procedure.

We have attempted to ascertain the exact cost of this service and must begin charging a service fee in order to hring our costs more in line with the service offered.

Beginning March 15, 1983 a service charge of $5.00 (orders up to $50.00) and $10.00 (for all orders over $50.00) will be added to your invoice to cover the additional costs of handling these telephone orders. This is done in the spirit of having each customer pay their fair share of the expenses of this operation. Please make sure that all persons that are involved in the purchase are aware of this policy, especially the school office!

We are here to help you and will do all we can to keep our costs at a minimum so that you will still be able to obtain the items your members need at the lowest price possible.

Unfortunately, we cannot guarantee any specific delivery dates since we still are at the mercy of UPS and the Post Office. If the date your order is needed requires delivery by AIR, you must still pay this additional charge, in addition to the phone service fee. It is requested that you order your material by MAIL as far ahead as possible to allow us ample time to make sure your order receives the attention it deserves.

We regret being forced to take this action, but we must help keep the FFA Organization on a sound financial footing.

We appreciate your understanding and hope you will continue to support your Supply Service.

Sincerely yours,

NATIONAL FFA SUPPLY SERVICE

Harry J. Andrews

Harry J. Andrews
Director

Countersigned: Byron F. Rawls

Byron Rawls
National Advisor

Job Talents

(Continued from page 32)

your job search, pick up some application forms and practice filling them out. This exercise will acquaint you with the general questions asked on most applications.

The interview is the most important aspect of your job search, because it provides the employer the opportunity to judge your qualifications, appearance and fitness for the job. This two-way interaction also gives you the chance to convince the interviewer why you should be selected for the job.

Some of your "salesmanship" during the interview will be nonverbal. An applicant who is appropriately dressed, neatly groomed, friendly and on time will make a favorable impression. A display of self-confidence, the maintenance of eye contact and good posture also score points. But the purpose of the interview is to judge how you respond to questions. While a few queries can be answered with a simple "yes" or "no", most require further explanation. Keep in mind that answers should be brief yet complete.

An interviewer will often ask an open-ended question such as "Why should I hire you?" Don't let this question stump you. Remember the self-appraisal and the abilities you discovered. Use them as your guide to help answer this question. For example, any one can say "I'm a hard worker." You prove it by calling attention to how you increased the scope of your SOE program and the responsibilities you shouldered.

Another often asked question is "Tell me about yourself." When this question is asked, many applicants miss the opportunity to emphasize their strong points. Instead of giving your life history, you should be comparing work related skills to some measurable accomplishment. Pointing out these things is neither boasting nor bragging; it is a presentation of facts that stress your qualifications.

As the interview draws to a close, you may have some questions. If so, don't hesitate to ask them but don't make salary your first question. When the interview is finished, the employer will generally stand to signal its completion. You should stand also, thank the interviewer for considering you and say goodbye.

You may or may not get the first part-time or full-time job for which you apply. But remember, even the best salesperson doesn't make a sale on every attempt. Don't become discouraged. You may make your "sale" the next time out. •••

"Oh, very well! I'll turn the light back on if you think it's going to worry your father."

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FFA in Action

NATIONAL OFFICER *ACTION* UPDATE

News is coming in to the center about the national officers experience program last fall and winter. Each year the national officers are sent to six states to spend a week getting their feet wet at banquets, school assemblies, motivational meetings, home visits, state legislative presentations, collegiate or alumni events.

Eddie Burke, reporter for Newell, South Dakota, sent this report about their chapter hosting National Secretary Marty Coates.

The Newell Chapter officers, along with the advisor, treated Marty and State Vice President Kim Mickelson to a night on the town with dinner and a basketball game afterward.

While Marty was visiting Newell, he stayed at the Don Breidenbach Ranch. He spoke to the Newell High School students and public about motivation.

After his visit at Newell, Marty went to Rapid City to speak to the District 5 FFA members.

National Secretary Marty Coates presented a gift from the FFA to Mr. Kodama, executive management director of Mitsui in Tokyo corporate headquarters.

National FFA President Eberly visiting with National FFJ President Matsumoto at the exchange visit between the two organizations.

Jim Keeton, secretary of Equine Science I class at Delaware City-County Joint Vocational School sent information about National President Jan Eberly's visit to their school.

During the visit by our national president other local chapters were invited. Jan gave an inspiring presentation and visited several taxomies at the school. Then she went to the equine science lab at Rolling Acres. She was aquainted with the horses used in the program and watched an American Saddlebred being hooked to a cart. After watching this procedure and seeing him jog for a few minutes, she took the lines and drove herself. After several times around the arena she felt confident enough to invite State President Leroy Billman to go for a ride. Jan said it was her first time driving a horse and she couldn't wait to get back home and share the experience with her friends.

And finally, the Cochran-Fountain City, Wisconsin, reports hosting Western Regional Vice President Wendell Jefffreys and treating him to a lunch at Fisherman's Inn.

After their individual experiences in the six states, the officers participated at the January Board of Directors meeting at the National FFA Center. Some decisions they made which you'll be interested in are: 1) to revise the student handbook (and also the advisor handbook so it corresponds with the student version): 2) approved an emphasis in the area of seat belt protection for a safety program: and 3) began steps to establish a National Forestry Contest.

Then it was off to Japan. Their international experience trip was sponsored by Mitsui & Company (USA), based in Memphis, and Mitsui, Ltd., of Tokyo. This is the fourth year Mitsui has sponsored the tour as a special project of the National FFA Foundation. The six officers visited Mitsui facilities while in Japan and with their Japanese counterpart the Future Farmers of Japan (FFJ). In order to give the national officers an experience in Japanese family culture, they each stayed with host families from the FFJ while in Japan.

Since 1947, national officers of the Future Farmers of America have taken time to travel throughout the United States to learn about American business and industry. This year is no exception. The FFA officers visited 34 cities in six states from Ohio to Minnesota, which will mean visits to approximately 150 businesses and industries.

The tour began in Indianapolis, Indiana, where they were hosted by Elanco Products Company and met with Robert M. Book, group vice president of Agricultural Marketing for Elanco who is chairman for the 1983 National FFA Foundation Sponsoring Board. While there the FFA'ers met Indiana Governor Robert Orr who issued an FFA day proclamation. From there, the officers divided into three pairs for visits in Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Illinois, Wisconsin and Minnesota.

THEN AND NOW AN FFA DANCE

This fall the Windsor, Missouri, FFA improved their community relations and had fun during the week of the annual barnwarming by remembering Mrs. Dortha Mae Agee Harvey who was the 1930 Barnwarming Harvest Queen.

During this week the Future Farmers of this small west central Missouri town and community presented Mrs. Harvey an arrangement of blue and yellow carnations. She was both amazed and delighted that she was remembered and honored on the 52nd anniversary of her reign as 1930 Harvest Queen.

Mrs. Harvey was remembered by the local chapter to help develop interest in the chapter among local citizens and the members themselves.

The Windsor FFA barnwarming, just as it was in the early years of the FFA, is patterned after the barnwarming held at the University of Missouri. On October 10, 1930, the entrance to this event was made of a rail fence. Entertainment for the evening included music furnished by the high school radio, contests in choosing the most typical farm couple, and a supper consisting of sandwiches, pickles, olives, cookies, potato chips and soda pop.

(Continued on Page 46)

SERVE YOUR COUNTRY AND GET $15,200 FOR COLLEGE. YOU'LL BE IN GOOD COMPANY.

Last year, 90,000 high school graduates joined the Army. Some came for the challenge. Some, for the excitement. Some, for the new Army College Fund.

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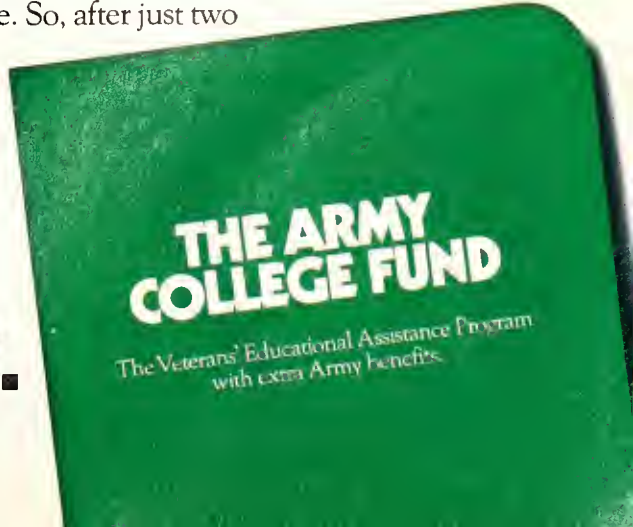

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FFA in Action

(Pick up ACTION from page 44)

This year's barnwarming was held in the vo-ag shop, with decorations transforming the shop into a fall setting. Music for this event was records provided by FFA members and refreshments consisted of donuts and soda pop.

The most important event of the evening was the crowning of Miss Brenda Rice as the 1982-83 barnwarming queen. Selection of four queen candidates, one from each class, by nomination at a chapter meeting qualified them to be crowned queen. During barnwarming, members voted for their choice of queen as they entered the shop. Later in the evening, these queen candidates competed for the title in contests of nail hammering, lassoing their escort, hog calling and a straw bale race. *(Kevin Gnuschke, Advisor)*

FOUNDERS ROOM ADDITION

President William E. Lavery of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Harry Sanders, professor emeritus of vocational education, and John Hillison, associate professor of agricultural education, hold a plaque recently received from the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Foundation. Sanders is the only living co-founder of the Future Farmers of America, which began in 1925 at Tech as the Future Farmers of Virginia. In 1933, a room at Monticello was commemorated to the ideals of the Future Farmers of America. The plaque was recently removed due to restoration efforts at Monticello and is now on indefinite loan to Tech. It is located in the FFA Historical Room, 124 Lane Hall, with the table upon which the plans for FFA were originally drawn, and other memorabilia.

HELPING BY BEING HURT

As a major part of the Osceola, Missouri's FFA chapter safety program, members participated with the Sac-Osage Hospital in conducting a mass casualty drill. The purpose of the drill is to give members of the hospital staff practice in coping with a major medical disaster.

The setting was a school bus accident at the Osceola Elementary School. FFA members were first "doctored" up by a hospital technician so they were representative of many types of injuries such as broken bones, internal injuries and open wounds. Members were then placed in and around the bus in different positions and states of consciousness.

Everett Foster of the Osceola, Missouri, FFA is shown being unloaded from the school bus after his mock injuries have been treated in the mass casualty safety drill with the hospital.

At 10 a.m. the hospital was notified about the accident by the school. Several FFA Alumni members in attendance volunteered to help just as they would have in a real disaster.

This drill involved the Missouri Highway Patrol, several other county hospitals, approximately 100 employees of the Sac-Osage Hospital, many FFA members, several school officials plus many local residents and volunteers.

The Osceola FFA members learned a great deal about these procedures. They are very proud to have been a part of an operation where their involvement may help save lives in our community. *(Gary L. Noakes, Advisor)*

SKI AND SEE TRIPS

The Oak Harbor, Ohio, Chapter took a break from their work for a recreation project. The chapter sponsored two trips as rewards to members who sold 50 gallons of apple cider and/or 20 cases of citrus fruit.

The first trip was to Clear Fork Ski Resort near Butler, Ohio, for a bit of skiing for 15 members.

Another 15 members went on the second trip to see the national winter tractor pulls at the Pontiac Silverdome.

OPERATIC RESTORATION

Members of the Elgin, Oregon, FFA have given a new lease on life to the historical Rex Theater in Elgin. The members and their advisor along with community support are repainting the walls in the auditorium foyer and restrooms. The chapter is supplying the labor and the Elgin Historical Society and city council are donating the paint and other material needed.

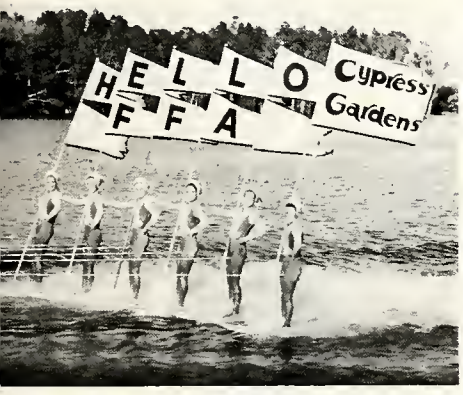
Once used as an opera house for touring opera companies, the building now houses the local theater, police station and city hall. The chapter plans to continue the painting project along with sanding, staining and sealing the wood floors. *(Dennis Witherspoon, Reporter)*

A TOURING STATE

The Florida FFA Association leaders used National FFA WEEK as a pivot point to gain more publicity for the organization.

John Denmark, state FFA advisor for Florida, sees FFA WEEK as a "good opportunity for all involved to reassess the importance of agriculture to the economy of Florida and the nation." As part of the effort of the Florida FFA a Goodwill Tour was conducted to various businesses and industry representatives across Florida.

Governor Bob Graham and the Florida Cabinet presented a resolution to the Florida FFA in Tallahassee. The resolution was presented by Doyle Conner, agriculture commissioner. Conner stated that, "The week has been set aside to remind those in our society of the importance of agriculture and to commend the Future Farmers in Florida for their strong voice in this effort." State President Eric Matthews from Inverness, District Presidents Meg Potter from Chipley and Buster Smith from Blountstown accepted the resolution along with Richie Williams, regional state vice president from Altha.



In special recognition of FFA WEEK, Florida Cypress Gardens prepared a VIP welcome and a day of educational tours and seminars for FFA members including a "behind-the-scenes" tour of the nursery complex and wildlife program.

During the tour, the state FFA officers will visit with Bill Gunter, state treasurer and insurance commissioner, and Ralph Turlington, state education commissioner. As they swing through Florida they will visit 25 businesses and industries including a day at EPCOT where they will be special guests of the Magic Kingdom will receive a VIP tour of the land pavillion, Walt Disney's expose of the world. They will wind up the tour on Saturday at Florida's Cypress Gardens for a special FFA Salute during the ski show. All FFA members and their parents have been invited to participate with the state officers during this special day.

FACTS FOR ACTION: EAT BETTER-LOOK BETTER-FEEL BETTER

"Tell me what you eat, and I will tell you what you are," physiologist Brillat-Savarin once said.

Food is life. Every day a part of your body is renewed by the food you eat. It's important to eat slowly. You'll be satisfied sooner.

Don't forget to drink water between meals. Drink 4 to 8 glasses a day. This water you need to drink includes other beverages.

Water helps you digest your food, carries wastes away from the body, and helps keep your skin moist.

"Include lots of protein," nutrition specialists at U.S. Department of Agriculture tell us. "Your body grows best if you eat one serving of lean meat, chicken, fish, eggs or cheese each day."

A young person who does not get enough protein and iron in his food may not grow properly. Your body grows from the time you're born until you're about 23 or 24 years old. After that the body does not grow, but it must repair bones, skin, and tissues.

Eating too many sweets, starches and greasy fried foods may tend to make you become not only tense and irritable but they also add unwanted pounds. Don't skip meals to lose weight. Just be sensible about the choice of food you eat.

Eat fruits to cleanse your body, vegetables to build it. Eat one leafy green vegetable each day such as lettuce, cabbage and spinach. Oranges, grapefruit, or tomatoes keep your gums healthy. They also help build bones, teeth, muscles and heal cuts. Fruits and vegetables can be eaten fresh, canned or frozen.

Drink about one-half to one quart of milk daily. Cheese is also a good milk substitute.

Enjoy the food you eat but eat the food that does the most for you.

HORSE JUDGING

Tulsa, Oklahoma August 5

AMERICAN JUNIOR QUARTER HORSE ASSOCIATION WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP JUDGING CONTEST

Four halter and four performance classes will be judged and oral reasons will be required on four classes. Plan to participate in the FFA division.

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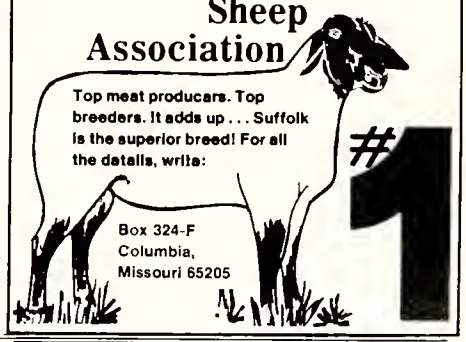

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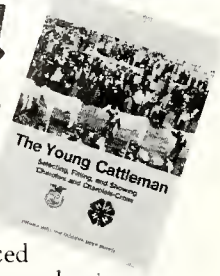

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The Joke Page

After struggling through deep snow, rescuers finally reached the cabin and shoveled away enough snow to clear the door. The mountaineer responded to their knocking and was told by one rescuer, *"We're from the Red Cross."*

"Well," the mountaineer responded, *"it's been a right tough winter and I don't see how we can give anything this year."*

Shannon Smith
Maud, Texas

Customer: *"Waiter, what are these pennies doing in my soup?"*

Waiter: *"Well, sir, you said that you would stop eating here if there wasn't some change in the soup we serve."*

Julie Robertson
Tyler, Texas

"When they agreed to place games in the school study hall, I knew there was a catch."

The minister was explaining to a group of second graders about the big plaque hanging on the wall. He said, *"Those are all the people who died in service."* One little chap who was listening intently raised his hand and asked, *"Was it the 8 o'clock or the 10 o'clock service?"*

Pat Ule
Chili, Wisconsin

A man was crawling in the desert. In about three days he saw a man about a mile ahead. When he reached the man he said, *"Water, water."* The stranger said, *"My name is Jim and I'm selling neckties. I don't have any water."* The man on his knees said, *"I don't want to buy a tie."*

Thirteen days later he saw a restaurant, crawled to the door and said, *"Water, water."* The man at the door said, *"Sorry, bud, you have to have a necktie to get in this place."*

Kevin Seal
Bogalusa, Louisiana

Tourist: *"You never had an accident in your life?"*

Cowboy: *"No. But a rattler bit me once."*

Tourist: *"And you don't call that an accident?"*

Cowboy: *"Naw, he bit me on purpose."*

Jeff Lefler
Merced, California

The farmer was preparing to go to the store and his wife told him to get a head of cabbage.

"What size?" he asked. *"Oh, about the size of your head,"* she told him.

On the way he met a friend who had a garden. *"Just go over to my garden and take any head of cabbage you want,"* the friend offered generously.

Later another friend asked the gardener, *"What kind of idiot did you have walking in your garden? When I went by he was trying his hat on one head of cabbage after another."*

Jeff Waters
Wapakoneta, Ohio

A cat went to Florida and saw a group of old cats sitting together talking. *"That's not for me,"* he said and journeyed on. Soon he came upon a group of cats discoing. A little sadly he said, *"That's not for me, either."* and continued on. Then he spotted a cluster of mice swooping around on skateboards. *"Ah, that's for me—meals on wheels."*

Rhonda Porter
Longbranch, Texas

Moe: *"What are you doing for your cold, Joe?"*

Joe: *"Coughing."*

Moe: *"No, no, I mean what are you taking for it?"*

Joe: *"Make me an offer."*

Jeff Waters
Wapakoneta, Ohio

Three midwesterners, a Kansan, a Missourian and an Iowan, all appearing on a quiz show, were asked to complete this sentence: *"Old Mac Donald had a _____."*

"Old Mac Donald had a carburator," answered the Kansan.

"Sorry, but that's wrong," said the host.

"Old Mac Donald had a free brake alignment down at the service station," said the Missourian.

"Wrong," said the host.

"Old Mac Donald had a farm," said the Iowan. *"That's correct, now for $100,000, spell farm,"* said the quizmaster.

"Easy," said the Iowan, *"E.I.E.I.O."*

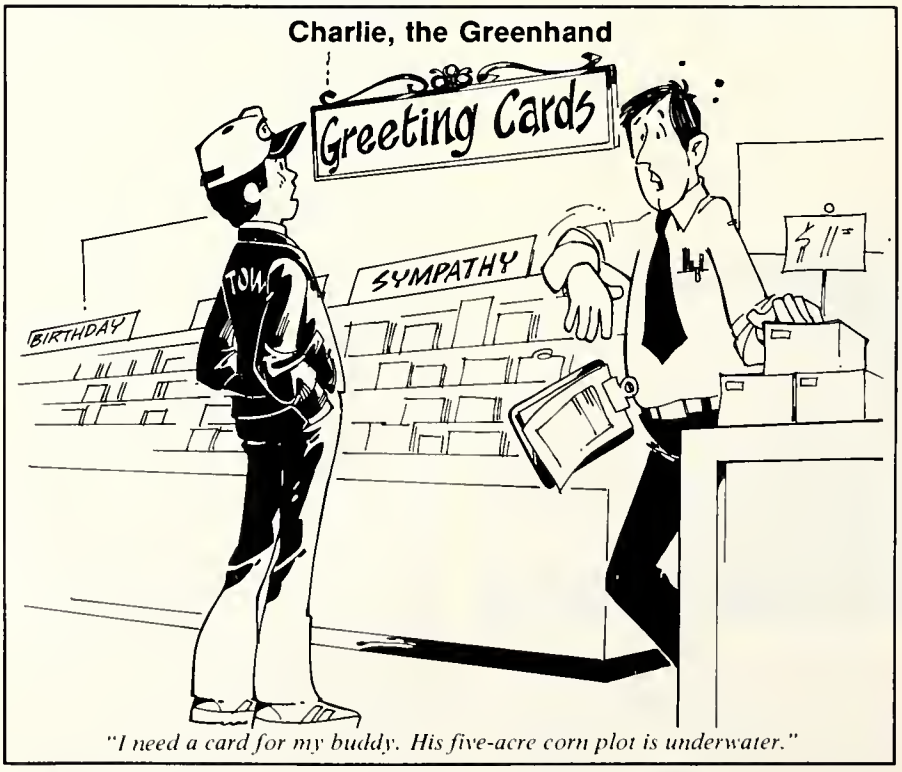
Diane Weidemann
Frazee, Minnesota

A man walked into a bubble gum factory and spoke to the secretary, *"I'd like to see the foreman. I'm here to apply for a job."*

"I'm sorry, but you can't see him. He fell into the bubble gum vat," the secretary replied. *"Well then, let me speak to the boss."* the man said.

The secretary said, *"No, the boss is too busy chewing him out."*

Glenn Roberts
Chase City, Virginia



"I need a card for my buddy. His five-acre corn plot is underwater."

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Northern Plains Tomato Rabbit

Ingredients: 1 large or 2 small rabbits; ½ cup bacon drippings or lard; 1 medium onion, chopped; 1 clove garlic, minced; 1 carrot, diced; 1 cup mushrooms; 2 ribs celery, diced; 1 green pepper, seeded and cut in strips; 1 teaspoon salt; small bunch fresh basil; 12 plum tomatoes, blanched and peeled; pinch of brown sugar; ½ cup water.

Brown rabbit in fat with garlic. When brown on all sides, add onion, carrot, mushrooms, celery and green pepper. Sprinkle with salt and sugar and add the basil. Put in the tomatoes and pour in water. Cover tightly and simmer for about 1½ hours or until the rabbit is tender. Serve with cornmeal mush.

Serves 4-6.

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